

The tax cuts that passed in 2001 and 2003 created 7.6 million new jobs. We don't need tax increases; but, unfortunately, the budget that the majority passed here does just that. It gets rid of all of that tax relief that created all of these jobs, and it gives the American people the largest tax increase in American history. I think it is wrong.

We on this side of the aisle, the minority, we believe in a different path: Balance the budget by controlling spending and keep taxes low. That's the way to go, Mr. Speaker.

AMERICAN PEOPLE CALL FOR CHANGE

(Mr. ALTMIRE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ALTMIRE. Mr. Speaker, Democrats in Congress have heard the call for change delivered by the American people last November. In just 3 months, we restored the necessary oversight of the administration and reformed the ethics rules of the House to lessen the influence of lobbyists and add transparency to the legislative process.

We answered the call for change in direction in Iraq and kept our promise to our Nation's veterans by voting to increase VA health care funding by \$11 billion.

We passed meaningful legislation that will help middle class families, lowering the cost of student loans and prescription drugs.

And although we won't be able to dig ourselves out overnight from the mountains of debt Congress and the administration built up over the past 6 years, the new Democratic Congress passed a budget that achieves balance in 5 years without raising a penny of taxes.

In short, Mr. Speaker, we have listened to the American people and changed the way Congress does business.

MINNESOTANS SAY: STOP RAISING TAXES

(Mrs. BACHMANN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, last Saturday, 7,000 Minnesotans stood on the steps of the St. Paul capitol in our State for the purpose of standing for freedom. It was a beautiful, sunny, ebullient Saturday morning, and 7,000 hardworking Minnesotans took their time away from their families and away from their work to stand on the steps of our State capitol to say: Enough is enough, stop raising my taxes.

The last vote I took in this body prior to our recess had the Democrats calling for the largest tax increase in American history and the largest spending increase in American history.

The people in Minnesota, Mr. Speaker, asked me to come back to this body

to fight for their freedom and to fight for the ability to hold on to more of their hardworking income, and that is exactly what we intend to do.

SUPPORT STEM CELL RESEARCH

(Mr. SIRES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SIRES. Mr. Speaker, last week the Senate followed our lead and passed legislation to advance potential life-saving stem cell research. The legislation now heads to the President's desk where he has already threatened a veto.

I hope the President will finally listen to an overwhelming majority of the American people, a bipartisan Congress and scientists who say this research can save millions of lives.

As the American Association for the Advancement of Science has argued: We owe it to those with serious illnesses to vigorously pursue both adult stem cell research and embryonic stem cell research.

This is not a partisan issue. In fact, many in the President's own party recognize the potential that exists if scientists are allowed to expand their research.

Mr. Speaker, over the last 7 years, the President has only vetoed one bill, and that was a similar stem cell research bill that passed the Republican Congress last year. The President should seriously reconsider his veto threat so we can begin life-saving research.

TAX CUTS CANNOT BE ALLOWED TO EXPIRE

(Ms. GRANGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, if Washington Democrats get their way, millions of Americans will see their taxes go up by billions of dollars. In a Gallup Poll released earlier this week, 53 percent of the American people said their Federal income taxes were too high, yet the Democrat leadership has decided to move forward with the highest tax increase in American history.

In an editorial by the Wall Street Journal, they said, "A tax increase of that magnitude could well lead to a recession and a plunge in receipts."

Take these examples as evidence that letting the Republican tax cuts expire would only wreak havoc on millions of American checkbooks. Over 115 million taxpayers would see a \$1,716 increase in their tax bill in 2011. For 84 million women, it would be an increase of over \$1,900. And for 42 million families with children, an increase of over \$2,000 would become a scary reality.

Chasing increased spending with higher taxes is not the path of fiscal responsibility and will not lead to further economic prosperity. These tax

cuts should not and cannot be allowed to expire.

□ 1030

DEFUSING THE WILL OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

(Mr. McDERMOTT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, the President is going to talk to the congressional leaders about Iraq. It is his way of trying to defuse the will of the American people. He is going to talk about his vision for a military victory in Iraq. He is going to talk about his military escalation and how well it is working.

He is not going to talk about the bombing in the Green Zone last week, or the fact that about 3 hours ago there were 127 Iraqis killed by a suicide bomber. And it is only early morning. There is plenty of time left in this day.

The President will say there are good days and there are bad days. In truth, there are only bad days, and worse days in Iraq.

The only thing worth talking about is protecting our soldiers by getting them out of the Iraq quagmire. That is the only discussion worth having, because setting a timetable is the only way to protect and defend the U.S. soldiers he keeps sending into harm's way.

Don't give him an inch, Mr. Speaker. Bring our troops home.

THE TAX CREDIT GAP

(Mrs. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, American families are leaving billions of dollars on the table each year by not claiming tax credits that help families pay for child care, to send their children to college, save for retirement, or work their way into the middle class.

Taxpayers claimed nearly \$83 billion in tax credits in 2004. But families missed out on over \$10 billion in unclaimed tax credits, according to a new estimate from the Joint Economic Committee. You can find this report on my Web site at maloney.house.gov.

The IRS can help close this tax credit gap by reporting on the characteristics of households not taking advantage of these credits. This will help us conduct better outreach to families who are missing out on credits that reward their hard work and help them get ahead.

BRING THE TROOPS HOME

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, during the break, I was home in my district in